



**United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Northwest District Man Sentenced to 42 Years in Prison for First Degree Premeditated Murder While Armed and Related Crimes

WASHINGTON, D.C. - On Friday, October 23, 2009, Superior Court Judge Geoffrey M. Alprin sentenced Jeffrey C. Bright, also known as "Blake," to 42 years in prison for the January 2007 murder of Deon A. Peoples and related crimes, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Bright, 26, was found guilty on July 24, 2009, following a two-week trial that concluded with a guilty verdict as to all counts, including Conspiracy to Commit Murder, First Degree Murder While Armed (Premeditated), Obstruction of Justice, and related firearms offenses.

The evidence at trial showed that Bright killed Deon Peoples inside the Kelsey Gardens apartment building located at 1512 7th Street, NW, at approximately 10:30 p.m. on January 27, 2007. At the time of the murder, Deon Peoples was inside of the building gambling with two others. Without any provocation, Bright approached the victim from behind and shot him in the back of the head. After the first shot, Bright stood over the victim and shot him an additional eight times. Bright committed this murder as part of an ongoing violent feud between 7th and 9th Street "crews" in the Shaw area of Washington, D.C. Bright, a member of a 7th Street crew, believed that the victim was associated with a 9th Street crew that was responsible for prior acts of violence against 7th Street crew members and felt "disrespected" by the fact that the victim would nevertheless spend time on 7th Street "territory."

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Jed Worrell and Jacqueline Middleton, who handled the investigation of this murder, as well as Detectives Brian Wise, Dwayne Partman, Robert Arrington, and William Xanten who assisted the lead detectives with the investigation and helped to secure the testimony of numerous witnesses for trial. He also commended the work of Marcia Rinker, Victim/Witness Advocate, Kwasi Fields, Paralegal Specialist, Thomas (Ron) Royal, Litigation Technology Specialist, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Amanda Haines, Jean Sexton and Fernando Campoamor, who handled the investigation and prosecution of the case.

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